

Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler's Report to the Board

September 21, 2022



MassTRAC Update

- Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito hosted an event with MassDOT on August 30 in West Springfield to speak about the success of the Administration’s municipal infrastructure grant programs and how much more will be possible with capital investments thanks to passage of the bond bill, “An Act Relative to Massachusetts’s Transportation Resources and Climate,” (MassTRAC).
- MassTRAC will advance & support significant investments in transportation & environmental infrastructure, as well as provide critical & required state matching funds to compete for, unlock & leverage federal formula and discretionary investments provided by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) enacted in November 2021.



Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Update

- Two state projects won RAISE grants this round – the Lynnway Multitmodal Corridor (\$20.25 million award) and the Roxbury Resilient Transportation Corridors (\$20 million).
- Cape Cod Bridges not selected for INFRA Grant in this round of funding
- Other grant programs open that project applications are being developed for include: Bridge, Safe Streets and Roads, and Re-Connecting Communities.
- MassDOT has supported applications by municipalities and regional planning agencies to the Safe Streets and Roads funding program, writing many letters of support. MassDOT has also hosted two webinars for municipal and RPAs to provide data and content for their applications. 51 participated

Governor Baker Signs Fiscal Year 2023 Budget

July 28: Governor Baker signed FY 23 budget, a \$52.7 billion spending plan that supports the Commonwealth's communities, families, businesses, and workers. For transportation, the budget includes:

- \$1.55 billion in total budget transfers for the MBTA
- \$457 million for MassDOT, including \$95 million for snow and ice operations and \$3.4 million to support implementation of new funds provided through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- \$266 million for a reserve to support MBTA safety improvements and workforce initiatives
- \$96.5 million for Regional Transit Authorities
- \$11.6 million for the Merit Rating Board

Five MA Transit Agencies Receive Almost \$189 Million in FTA Grants

Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has awarded grants totaling almost \$189 million to five transit agencies in Massachusetts to invest in bus fleets and facilities. Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the funding will be used for electric buses, to upgrade bus maintenance facilities and for a workforce development program to support training and safety efforts.

1. The MBTA is receiving \$116 million to buy battery-electric buses to replace older diesel buses that have reached their useful life and launching a workforce development program to support training and safety efforts.
2. The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority is receiving \$54 million
3. The Southeastern Regional Transit Authority is receiving more than \$12.2 million
4. The Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority and the Nantucket Regional Transit Authority, applying for funding in partnership with MassDOT, will receive more than \$4.1 million
5. The Berkshire Regional Transit Authority will receive almost \$2.5 million

Orange and Green Line Shutdowns

- The Orange Line was closed between August 19 to September 18, with major revitalization work successfully completed in that timeframe. Work that would have otherwise taken 5 years to complete.
- Construction crews were able to accomplish track replacement, upgraded signal systems, station improvements, and track maintenance in accordance with the FTA safety directives.
- The partial Green Line closure allowed crews to successfully adjust the overhead wire on the East Cambridge Viaduct, test and integrate track switches, power lines, signal equipment, and digital communications, install sound walls, and to complete final and outstanding construction items.



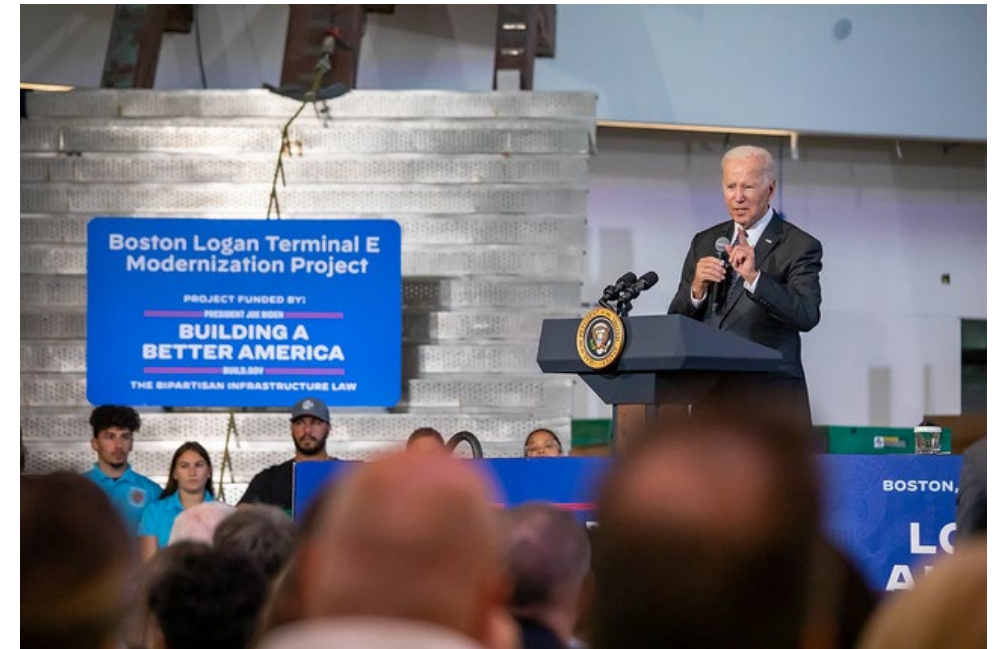
Orange and Green Line Shutdowns- Thank You to MassDOT

- MassDOT team at the highway division assisted the MBTA with traffic analysis and with the installation and operation of infrastructure to optimize the shuttle bus diversion routes in the safest possible way for orange line and green line transit users.
- MassDOT also helped to organize the bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, install wayfinding signs and to make sure that the diversions were user friendly and accessible to all users.
- MassDOT and the MBTA worked with public safety officials and transportation engineers from communities along the diversion route to make the diversion as safe and as efficient as possible throughout the shutdown.
- We are all proud of the work that was accomplished, and it exemplifies MassDOT and MBTA's continued focus on making safety a top priority.



President Biden Visits Boston

- September 12th- President Biden visited Boston Logan International Airport to highlight how the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is making a historic investment in America's airports – with \$25 billion to upgrade and modernize airports across the country.
- President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's roads, bridges, railroads, ports, water systems, and internet.
- It's the most significant investment in our infrastructure since President Eisenhower's Interstate Highway system.



Amtrak Ride

- Joined Governor Baker, Chairman Neal, Administrator Slesinger and Amtrak CEO Stephen Gardner from Boston to Springfield to discuss opportunities to improve passenger rail service in the Commonwealth.
- Shared goals include reducing trip times between Springfield and Boston and establishing Springfield Union Station as a second rail hub for New England.
- MassDOT recently received a federal CRISI grant for preliminary engineering and environmental evaluation to make capacity and other operational improvements in Springfield to create flexibility for improved west-east and north-south service.
- Collaborations will continue between the Commonwealth, Amtrak, and CSX, to further evaluate new passenger route ideas in Massachusetts.



Complete Streets Funding

- July 21: Lt. Governor Karyn Polito announced the Administration's latest round of the Complete Streets Funding Program awards in Taunton.
- Since the launch of the program, 252 municipalities have worked to adopt a Complete Streets policy and 222 have advanced further to develop an approved Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.
- In this round of funding for FY 2023, \$5.54 million has been awarded to 16 communities



IRAP Grants Announced

- September 8: Lieutenant Governor and Administrator Slesinger joined local officials in New Bedford to announce 7 grants totaling over \$3 million in the Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) to enhance rail and freight access, economic opportunity, and job growth.
- Awards to:
 - Old Boston Road Recycling (\$500,000) to support new track construction at a recycling facility in Wilbraham.
 - Arrowhead Environmental Partners (\$500,000) to support renovations to the company's yard in Ayer.
 - Cavossa Disposal Corporation (\$500,000) to help modernize the Upper Cape Regional Transfer Station in Sandwich.
 - Lehigh Cement Company LLC (\$500,000) to upgrade the rail car unloading systems in Palmer.
 - CSX (\$499,000) to support the Everett Coke Works Rehabilitation Project.
 - Broco Energy (\$384,022) to support the 81 Hale Street Track Construction in Haverhill.
 - Ice Cube Maritime (\$361,669) to support railway and unloading facility upgrades at a freight rail shipper in New Bedford.



Rail Trail Ribboncutting: Leominster and Fitchburg

- July 29: Ribboncutting event with local officials for completion of Phase I of the Twin Cities Rail Trail.
- The \$8.5 million project for Phase I facilitated the construction of a shared-use trail through the re-purposing of the former railroad corridor connecting the central business districts of Leominster and Fitchburg.
- When the overall project is fully built out and completed, the Twin Cities Rail Trail will be a 4.5-mile trail connecting downtown Leominster and the Monoosnoc Brook Greenway with downtown Fitchburg and the MBTA commuter rail.
- Recently, Administration announced \$11.4 million in its fourth annual round of MassTrails Grants to 81 projects throughout the state.



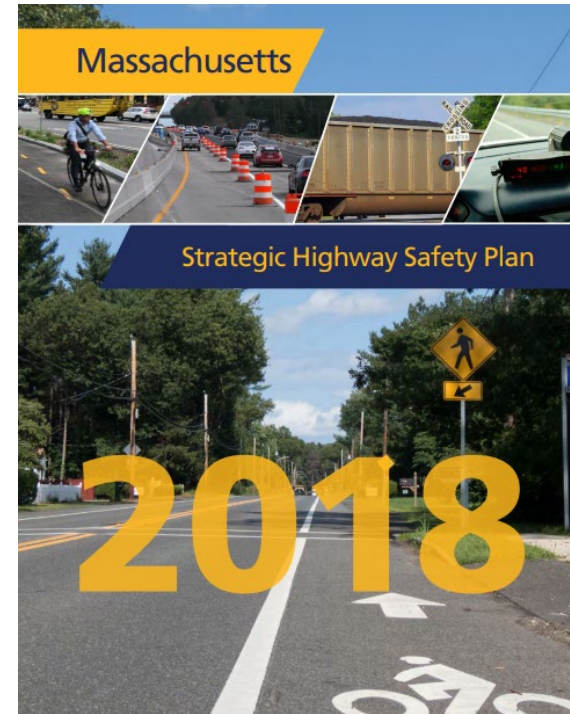
SparkDay and NEVI Plan Announcement

- Joined Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Card, and local elected officials spoke at an event in Assembly Row in Somerville.
- The event was hosted by SparchCharge and covered many topics including EV charging, NEVI Plans and other climate initiatives.
- SparkCharge debuted a new mobile EV charger and various charging programs.
- MassDOT announced that the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) plan was one of 35 to be approved ahead of schedule under the NEVI Formula Program, established and funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.



Vision & Safe System Approach to Prevent Road Deaths

- Consistent with national trends, Massachusetts is experiencing a significant increase in roadway fatalities over the last couple years.
- MassDOT is adopting the Safe System approach with the aim to eliminate serious injuries and fatalities on our roadways.
- The Safe System approach is a holistic view of the road system that anticipates human mistakes and makes safety an imperative of designers and owners of the transportation system.



Safe speeds
Speed management to prevent serious injuries and fatalities

Zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries



Safety Activities

- Developing Strategic Highway Safety Plan in partnership with other state agencies
- MassDOT will launch a Safety website as a consolidated and comprehensive landing page for safety resources, funding opportunities, and related guidance geared towards communities and state workforce.
- MassDOT promoting new USDOT Funding Opportunity
 - Series of upcoming actions in support of municipal/ regional applications
 - MassDOT will send data reports and resources to help municipalities and MPOs create safety plans and applications.
 - MassDOT will host a virtual open house/webinar to walk through the resources we have available, gather feedback, and answer questions.

NACTO Conference In Boston

- MassDOT managers were pleased to join with peers from around the country the week of September 6th for the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) 2022 Conference.
- Now in its tenth year, the NACTO Designing Cities Conference brings together nearly 1,000 officials, planners, and practitioners to advance the state of transportation in cities.
- The September 2022 event was the first in-person gathering since 2019. The workshops featured the work being done toward creating seamless transportation options for communities.
- Attendees shared information and best practices and had the opportunity to visit MBTA and MassDOT project sites. These photographs show conference attendees touring the soon to be open Somerville Community Path.

